IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3 to 7, 11, 12, 14, 18, 19 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image input system in which at least first and second information processing ~~units~~ apparatuses are connected via a network, comprising:

first control means in the first information processing ~~unit~~ apparatus controlling a first image input device connected to the first information processing apparatus ~~unit to supply input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface~~;

determination means for determining whether the ~~second control means for supplying image data input by the first~~ image input device is locally connected to [[a]] the first ~~application program installed in the second~~ information processing apparatus or is connected ~~unit by transferring control information based on the image input interface~~ via the network[[,]] to the ~~control~~ first information processing apparatus ~~being exchanged between the first application program and said first control means~~; and

receiving means for receiving ~~third control means for switching a mode for transferring the~~ image data in a batch transfer mode from the ~~first~~ image input device when the determination means determines that the ~~to the first application program in accordance with communication status between the first~~ image input device is locally connected ~~and~~ to the first ~~application program and said first control means via said second control means~~ information processing apparatus, and for receiving image data input by the image input device, via an external apparatus connected to the image input device, parallel to an input

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process at the image input device when the determination means determines that the image input device is connected to the first information processing apparatus via the network.

2. and 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing ~~unit connected to a network~~ apparatus for controlling an image input device, comprising:

determination means for determining whether the ~~communication means for communicating data with a first~~ image input device is locally connected to the information processing apparatus, or whether the ~~on the network, the first~~ image input device ~~supplying input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface~~ is connected to the information processing apparatus via a network; and

~~first control means for supplying image data from the first image input device to a first application program installed in said information processing unit by transferring control information based on the image input interface via the network, the control information being exchanged between the first application program and the first image input device; and~~

receiving means for receiving image data in a batch transfer mode ~~second control means for switching a mode for transferring the image data~~ from the first image input device when the determination means determines that the image input device is locally connected to the information processing apparatus, and for receiving, parallel to an image input process at the image input device, via an external apparatus connected to the image input device, image data input by the ~~to the first application program in accordance with communication status between the first~~ image input device ~~and the first application~~

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program when the determination means determines that the image input device is connected to the information processing apparatus via the network.

9. (Canceled.)

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~ information processing ~~unit~~ apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein, the ~~image input interface is operated in modes for transferring~~ receiving means receives divided image data in data block units when the determination means determines that the image input device is connected to the information processing apparatus via the network ~~from the first image input device to an application program, a first transfer mode for batchtransferring image data and a second transfer mode for dividing image data in data block units based on an instruction from the application program and transferring blocks of the image data in sequence, and~~

~~wherein, said second control means switches the first transfer mode designated by the first application program to the second transfer mode.~~

11. and 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~An~~ information processing ~~unit~~ apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein, the receiving means receives the image data in the batch transfer mode from the ~~said second control means analyzes the control information from the first application program for controlling the first~~ image input device ~~and selectively switches the first transfer mode designated by the first application program to the second transfer mode in accordance with the analysis result~~ when the determination means further

determines that a size of the input image data input by the image input device is smaller than a predetermined size.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information processing ~~unit connected to a network~~ apparatus for controlling an image input device, said information processing method comprising:

a determination step of determining whether the ~~a communication step for~~ ~~communicating data with a first~~ image input device is locally connected to the information processing apparatus, or whether the ~~on the network, the first~~ image input device ~~supplying~~ ~~input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface~~ is connected to the information processing apparatus via a network; and

~~a first control step for supplying image data from the first image input~~ ~~device to a first application program installed in said information processing unit by~~ ~~transferring control information based on the image input interface via the network, the~~ ~~control information being exchanged between the first application program and the first~~ ~~image input device; and~~

a receiving step of receiving image data in a batch transfer mode ~~a second~~ ~~control step for switching a mode for transferring the image data~~ from the ~~first application~~ ~~program in accordance with communication status between the first~~ image input device ~~and~~ ~~the first application program~~ when the determination step determines that the image input device is locally connected to the information processing apparatus, and receiving, parallel to an input process at the image input device, via an external apparatus connected to the

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image input device, image data input by the image input device when the determination

step determines that the image input device is connected to the information processing

apparatus via the network.

16. (Canceled.)

17. (Currently Amended) The An information processing method according

to Claim 15, wherein, the image input interface is operated in modes for transferring

receiving step receives divided image data in data block units when the determination step

determines that the image input device is connected to the information processing

apparatus via the network from the first image input device to an application program, a

first transfer mode for batch-transferring image data and a second transfer mode for

dividing image data in data block units based on an instruction from the application

program and transferring blocks of the image data in sequence, and

wherein, in said second control step, the first transfer mode designated by

the first application program is switched to the second transfer mode.

18. and 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The An information processing method according

to Claim 17, wherein, the receiving step receives the image data in the batch transfer mode

from the in said second control step, the control information from the first application

program for controlling the first image input device when the determination means further

determines that a size of the input image data input by the image input device is smaller

than a predetermined size ~~is analyzed and the first transfer mode designated by the first application program is selectively switched to the second transfer mode in accordance with the analysis result~~.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable memory medium having recorded thereon a computer program to be executed by ~~a computer of~~ an information processing ~~unit connected to a network~~ apparatus for controlling an image input device, said computer program comprising:

a determination step of determining whether the ~~a communication step for communicating data with an~~ image input device is locally connected to the information processing apparatus, or whether the ~~on the network, the~~ image input device ~~supplying input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface~~ is connected to the information processing apparatus via a network; and

~~a first control step for supplying image data from the image input device to a first application program installed in said information processing unit by transferring control information based on the image input interface via the network, the control information being exchanged between the first application program and the image input device; and~~

a receiving step of receiving image data in a batch transfer mode ~~a second control step for switching a mode for transferring the image data~~ from the ~~first~~ image input device ~~to the first application program in accordance with communication status between the first image input device and the first application program~~ when the determination step

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determines that the image input device is locally connected to the information processing apparatus, and receiving, parallel to an input process at the image input device, via an external apparatus connected to the image input device, image data input by the image input device when the determination step determines that the image input device is connected to the information processing apparatus via the network.

23. (Canceled.)

24. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] computer readable memory medium according to Claim 22, wherein the ~~image input interface is operated in modes for transferring~~ receiving step receives divided image data in data block units when the determination step determines that the image input device is connected to the information processing apparatus via the network ~~from the image input device to an application program, a first transfer mode for batch-transferring image data and a second transfer mode for dividing image data in data block units based on an instruction from the application program and transferring blocks of the image data in sequence; and~~
~~in said second control step, the first transfer mode designated by the first application program is switched to the second transfer mode~~.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable memory medium to be executed by ~~a computer of~~ an information processing apparatus for controlling an image input device ~~unit connected to a network~~, comprising:
code for a determination step of determining whether the ~~a communication step for communicating data with an~~ image input device is locally connected to the

information processing apparatus, or whether the ~~on the network, the~~ image input device ~~supplying input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface~~ is connected to the information processing apparatus via a network; and

~~a first control step for supplying image data from the image input device to a first application program installed in said information processing unit by transferring control information based on the image input interface via the network, the control information being exchanged between the first application program and the image input device; and~~

code for a receiving step for receiving image data in a batch transfer mode from the image input device when the determination step determines that the image input device is locally connected to the information processing apparatus, and receiving, parallel to an input process at the image input device, via an external apparatus connected to the image input device, image data input by the image input device when the determination step determines that the image input device is connected to the information processing apparatus via the network ~~a second control step for compulsorily switching part of the data exchanged between the first application program and the image input device via said first control means~~.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The [[A]] computer program according to Claim 25, wherein, the ~~image input interface includes, as modes for transferring~~ receiving step receives divided image data in data block units when the determination step determines that the image input device is connected to the information processing apparatus via the

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network ~~from the image input device to an application program, a first transfer mode for~~

~~batch-transferring image data and a second transfer mode for dividing image data in data~~

~~block units based on an instruction from the application program and transferring blocks of~~

~~the image data in sequence; and~~

~~in said second control step, the first transfer mode designated by the first~~

~~application program is switched to the second transfer mode.~~

28. (Currently Amended) An information processing ~~unit connected to a~~

~~network~~ apparatus for controlling an image input device, comprising:

a determination unit that determines whether the ~~a communication unit of~~

~~communicating data with a first~~ image input device is locally connected to the information

processing apparatus, or whether the ~~on the network, the first~~ image input device ~~supplying~~

~~input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface~~

is connected to the information processing apparatus via a network; and

a receiver that receives image data in a batch transfer mode from the image

input device when the determination unit determines that the image input device is locally

connected to the information processing apparatus, and that receives, parallel to an image

input process at the image input device, via an external apparatus connected to the image

input device, image data input by the image input device when the determination unit

determines that the image input device is connected to the information processing

apparatus via the network ~~a controller of supplying image data from the first image input~~

~~device to a first application program installed in said information processing unit by~~

~~transferring control information based on the image input interface via the network, the~~

control information being exchanged between the first application program and the first image input device,

wherein said controller compulsorily switches part of the data exchanged between the first application program and the first image input device.